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## NHDOT Qualified Products List

The NHDOT Qualified Products List (QPL) is a listing of products that have been qualified for use on road and bridge construction projects in New Hampshire. Product types listed on the QPL are generally "off the shelf" products that have been manufactured through a quality control process and are sold in pre-packaged units. Most of these products are accepted on projects by Certificate of Compliance with no additional testing. The QPL can be accessed from the Qualified Products webpage at <http://nh.gov/dot/materialsandresearch/research/qualifiedproducts.htm>

The Research Office maintains a database of products that have been submitted to the Department for possible inclusion on the QPL. By tracking this information in a central location, we can:

- Avoid duplication of effort in having a product evaluated more than once.
- Avoid using a product that has been found to be inadequate.
- Provide a resource for sharing product information.

For the Department to realize these benefits, manufacturers and salespeople should be directed to submit their products to the Research Office using the form located on the Qualified Products webpage. This dissuades those who prefer a "backdoor" approach in hopes of finding a sympathetic ear, and is especially important in identifying products that have already been rejected.

Products submitted to the Research Office are reviewed against established qualification criteria. Many criteria are now accessible through the Qualified Products webpage. Some product submittals are forwarded to other Bureaus or Department committees

for review. Product evaluations often include a field trial application of the product. Field trials are conducted under controlled conditions to minimize variables that could skew results. The performance of the trial application is evaluated over a prescribed period of time, reported on, and entered in the Product Database to provide a permanent, easily accessible record of the evaluation. In evaluating products, the Department also considers information provided by AASHTO's "National Transportation Product Evaluation Program" (NTPEP). The website for this program is <http://www.ntpep.org/programs/ntpep/home.nsf/Home>

The QPL, and the product database that it is derived from, provide a valuable source of product information for the Department's designers, inspectors, and contractors. You can help make it a more effective tool by reporting any product deficiencies to the Research Office at (603) 271-3151. For more information on the QPL or other Research Office programs, visit the NHDOT Research website at: <http://nh.gov/dot/materialsandresearch/research/index.htm>



Ray Wellman of the Research Office performs freeze/thaw testing of mortars and grouts to evaluate their acceptability for listing on the Qualified Products List (QPL).

### Feature Project

#### "Product Tracking Initiative"

Although the Department takes a hard look at products submitted for possible inclusion on the Qualified Products List (QPL), the ability to track the performance of those products after installation has been limited. By enhanced documentation of which products are used at which locations, a number of important benefits can be realized. Among these benefits is the ability to:

- Identify products that do not provide adequate long-term performance.
- Identify products that provide exceptional long-term performance.
- Provide information to maintenance forces that would allow them to use compatible products when repairing or replacing.
- Identify products that are no longer available or have been changed.

The Department has worked in recent months to implement a product tracking system. The first component of this initiative was a modification to the Certificate of Compliance (COC) provided as documentation that products meet specifications. The COC form, available at <http://nh.gov/dot/business.htm> is designed to put the required product information at the fingertips of the Department's project staff. The changes require that the product name, manufacturer, and location information be provided.

The second component of the product tracking initiative is a modification to the Construction Management System (CMS), which is the computer program used by the Bureau of Construction to manage construction project records. The modification provides drop down menus that allow for easy entry of product identification and the location where it was used.

The final component will be the development of a database which can be queried to tell us where a specific product has been used, or which product was used on a specific project.

Many thanks to Peter Anderson of Construction Bureau for his efforts in this deployment.